Claims

[1]   An apparatus for dynamically managing a user's favorite channels, the apparatus comprising:

a user input unit receiving a channel change input from the user;

a channel list storage unit storing an entire channel list comprising channels receivable using a tuner and channel preference information regarding the user's preference degrees for channels;

a control unit calculating a preference degree for a channel selected in response to the channel change input received by the user input unit and analyzing a pattern of channel change inputs; and

an output unit providing content of the selected channel according to calculation and analysis results of the control unit.

[2]   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the channel preference information is an accumulation of times while the user stays at each channel.

[3]   The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the accumulation is an accumulation of times while the user stays at each channel in each time zone.

[4]   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control unit provides the content of the selected channel through the output unit when the calculated preference degree for the selected channel satisfies a predetermined reference, and even when the calculated preference degree for the selected channel does not satisfy the predetermined reference, the control unit provides the content of the selected channel through the output unit if channel change inputs have a pattern of 'channel up - channel down - channel up' or a pattern of 'channel down - channel up - channel down'.

[5]   The apparatus of claim 4, wherein when the calculated preference degree for the selected channel does not satisfy the predetermined reference of the selected channel whose content is provided according to the pattern of the channel change inputs, the control unit provides the content of the selected channel through the output unit if the selected channel is present between two channels that have preference degrees satisfying the predetermined reference and that are adjacent to the selected channel.

[6]   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein when the calculated preference degree for the selected channel does not satisfy a predetermined reference, the control unit provides the content of the selected channel through the output unit if either of

'channel up' and 'channel down' is continuously received as the channel change input for a predetermined period of time.

[7]   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein when the calculated preference degree for the selected channel does not satisfy a predetermined reference, the control unit provides the content of the selected channel through the output unit if either of 'channel up' and 'channel down' is received as the channel change input a predetermined number of consecutive times.

[8]   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the content is a broadcast program.

[9]   A method of dynamically managing a user's favorite channels, the method comprising:

receiving a channel change input from the user using an apparatus that stores an entire channel list comprising channels receivable using a tuner and channel preference information regarding the user's preference degrees for channels; calculating a preference degree for a channel selected in response to the received channel change input and analyzing a pattern of the channel change input; and providing content of the selected channel according to results of the calculation and the analysis.

[10]   The method of claim 9, wherein the channel preference information is an accumulation of times while the user stays at each channel.

[11]   The method of claim 10, wherein the accumulation is an accumulation of times while the user stays at each channel in each time zone.

[12]   The method of claim 9, wherein in the providing of the content of the selected channel, when the calculated preference degree for the selected channel satisfies a predetermined reference, and even when the calculated preference degree for the selected channel does not satisfy the predetermined reference, the content of the selected channel is provided through the output unit if channel change inputs have a pattern of 'channel up - channel down - channel up' or a pattern of 'channel down - channel up - channel down'.

[13]   The method of claim 12, wherein in the providing of the content of the selected channel, when the calculated preference degree for the selected channel does not satisfy the predetermined reference of the selected channel whose content is provided according to the pattern of the channel change inputs, the content of the selected channel is provided through the output unit if the selected channel is present between two channels that have preference degrees satisfying the predetermined reference and that are adjacent to the selected channel.

[14]   The method of claim 9, wherein in the providing of the content of the selected

            channel, when the calculated preference degree for the selected channel does not

            satisfy a predetermined reference, the content of the selected channel is provided

            through the output unit if either of 'channel up' and 'channel down' is con-

            tinuously received as the channel change input for a predetermined period of

            time.

[15]   The method of claim 9, wherein in the providing of the content of the selected

            channel, when the calculated preference degree for the selected channel does not

            satisfy a predetermined reference, the content of the selected channel is provided

            through the output unit if either of 'channel up' and 'channel down' is received as

            the channel change input a predetermined number of consecutive times.

[16]   The method of claim 9, wherein the content is a broadcast program.